

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A longitudinal drawing device for drawing a synthetic film~~films~~, the longitudinal drawing device comprising:
a frame; and
drawing cylinders over which the film is drawn from an upstream position to a downstream position, the drawing cylinders including:
a first drawing cylinder that rotates about a first axle;
a second drawing cylinder that rotates about a second axle, the second axle being positioned in a downstream direction and offset in a vertical direction with respect to the first axle;
a third drawing cylinder that rotates about a position-adjustable third axle, the third axle being positioned in the downstream direction and offset in the vertical direction with respect to the second axle; and
a fourth drawing cylinder that rotates about a fourth axle, the fourth axle being positioned in the downstream direction and offset in the vertical direction with respect to the third axle;
the longitudinal drawing device further comprising:
a first press element, a second press element, and a third press element corresponding to the second drawing cylinder, the third drawing cylinder, and the fourth drawing cylinder, respectively;
a motorized rotational drive means for rotationally driving at least two of the cylinders at differentiated speeds so as to form a first drawing stage between the second drawing cylinder and the third drawing cylinder and a second drawing stage between the third drawing

cylinder and the fourth drawing cylinder such that the film is drawn on an upstream and a downstream side of the third cylinder;

a mobile coupling on which the third drawing cylinder is mounted and that supports the third press element, and

a motorized means for causing the mobile coupling to pivot about an axis connected to the frame of the drawing device so as to adjust a position of the third axle and thereby regulate a drawing distance in the first drawing stage formed between the second drawing cylinder and the third drawing cylinder,

wherein the third press element accompanies the third drawing cylinder as the position of the third axle is adjusted and the drawing distance in the first drawing stage is regulated. of the double drawing stage device kind, with drawing cylinders and press elements, particularly press cylinders, associated with the drawing cylinders, characterized in that it comprises four drawing cylinders (6, 7, 8, 9) over which the film (5) that is to be drawn passes in succession, with a first drawing cylinder (6), particularly of fixed axle (10), a second drawing cylinder (7) the axle (12) of which is offset forward and vertically with respect to the axle (10) of the first drawing cylinder (6), a third drawing cylinder (8) the axle (17) of which is offset forward and vertically with respect to the axle (10) of the second drawing cylinder (7), and a fourth drawing cylinder (9) the axle (25) of which is offset forward and vertically with respect to the axle (17) of the third drawing cylinder (8), the device (2) also comprising motorized means for the rotational drive of all or some of the drawing cylinders (6, 7, 8, 9), at differentiated speeds, so as to form a first drawing stage between the second cylinder (7) and the third cylinder (8) and so as to form a second drawing stage between the third cylinder (8) and the fourth cylinder (9), the drawing of the film (5) thus occurring on each side of the third cylinder (8).

2. (Currently Amended) The longitudinal drawing device as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the first axle and the second axle are fixed axles. ~~characterized in that the first drawing cylinder (6) and the second drawing cylinder (7) have fixed respective axles (10, 12), whereas the third drawing cylinder (8) has a position-adjustable axle (17) so as to regulate the drawing distance (d, D) in the first drawing stage formed between the second cylinder (7) and the third cylinder (8).~~

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The longitudinal drawing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fourth axle is a fixed axle. ~~characterized in that the fourth drawing cylinder (9) has a fixed axle (25), particularly when situated at the same height as the axle (12) of the second drawing cylinder (7).~~

6. (Currently Amended) The longitudinal drawing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fourth axle is a position-adjustable axle and is mounted on a second mobile coupling so as to regulate a drawing distance in the second drawing stage formed between the third drawing cylinder and the fourth drawing cylinder. ~~characterized in that the fourth drawing cylinder (9) has a position-adjustable axle (25), for example mounted on a mobile coupling, so as to regulate the drawing distance in the second drawing stage formed by the third cylinder (8) and the fourth cylinder (9).~~

7. (Currently Amended) The longitudinal drawing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the motorized rotational drive means drives the first drawing cylinder and the second drawing cylinder in substantial synchronism. ~~characterized in that the motorized rotational drive means are designed to drive the first drawing cylinder (6) and the second drawing cylinder (7) in synchronism or almost in synchronism, that is to say with a slightly higher speed for the second cylinder (7).~~

8. (Currently Amended) The longitudinal drawing device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the motorized rotational drive means positively drives the drawing cylinders, the

third drawing cylinder being driven at a faster speed than the second drawing cylinder so as to define a first draw ratio in the first drawing stage and the fourth drawing cylinder being driven at a faster speed than the third drawing cylinder so as to define a second draw ratio in the second drawing stage.~~characterized in that the motorized rotational drive means are designed to positively drive the four drawing cylinders (6, 7, 8, 9), the third drawing cylinder (8) being driven at a speed higher than that of the second cylinder (7) and defining the draw ratio in the first drawing stage, and the fourth drawing cylinder (9) being driven at a speed higher than that of the third drawing cylinder (8) and defining the draw ratio in the second drawing stage.~~

9. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The longitudinal drawing device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the motorized rotational drive means positively turns~~characterized in that the motorized rotational drive means are designed to positively turn only the first drawing cylinder (6), the second drawing cylinder, (7) and the fourth drawing cylinder and the film causes the third drawing cylinder to turn at an intermediate speed between a speed of the second drawing cylinder and a speed of the fourth drawing cylinder. (9) while the third drawing cylinder (8) turns driven by the film (5) at a speed someway between that of the second cylinder (7) and that of the fourth cylinder (8).~~

10. (Currently Amended) The longitudinal drawing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein each press element is a press cylinder that presses against the corresponding drawing cylinder at substantially a point of tangency of the film and the drawing cylinder.~~characterized in that the press elements all consist of press cylinders (13, 21, 26) pressed against the associated drawing cylinders (7, 8, 9) at the points of tangency of the film (5) or close to these points of tangency.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The longitudinal drawing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the third press cylinder comprises an electrostatic close application

~~system characterized in that the press element associated with the third drawing cylinder (8) consists of an electrostatic close application system, preferably of the belt type.~~

12. (New) The longitudinal drawing device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the second axle and the fourth axle are positioned at substantially the same height in the vertical direction.

13. (New) The longitudinal drawing device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the motorized rotational drive means drives the second drawing cylinder at a slightly higher speed than the first drawing cylinder.